

IN THE CLAIMS:

The status of each claim that has been introduced in the above-referenced application is identified in the ensuing listing of the claims. This listing of the claims replaces all previously submitted claims listings.

1. (Previously presented) An electrode for use in noninvasively measuring hematocrit, comprising:
a common contact region carrying at least two laterally discrete electrical contacts; and
at least two discrete elongate elements protruding from the common contact region, each
elongate element carrying an electrode which is coextensive with a corresponding one of
the at least two electrical contacts.
2. (Previously presented) The electrode of claim 1, wherein a pair of elongate elements of the at least two elongate elements extends from the common contact region in substantially a common direction.
3. (Original) The electrode of claim 2, wherein the elongate elements of the pair are oriented substantially parallel to one another.
4. (Original) The electrode of claim 3, wherein the elongate elements of the pair have substantially the same width.
5. (Original) The electrode of claim 4, wherein the elongate elements of the pair are spaced apart from one another by a distance which is substantially the same as the width of each elongate element.
6. (Previously presented) The electrode of claim 5, wherein the common contact region has a width equal to about four times the width of each elongate element.

7. (Previously presented) The electrode of claim 6, wherein a gap between the elongate elements of the pair is positioned substantially centrally relative to the width of the common contact region.
8. (Previously presented) The electrode of claim 1, comprising a dielectric layer forming at least a portion of the common contact region and each elongate element.
9. (Previously presented) The electrode of claim 8, further comprising a conductive layer on the dielectric layer, the conductive layer forming at least portions of the at least two electrical contacts of the common contact region and the electrode of each elongate element.
10. (Original) The electrode of claim 9, further comprising a conductive coating layer over a portion of the conductive layer on each elongate element.
11. (Previously presented) The electrode of claim 1, wherein the common contact region includes at least one aperture formed therethrough.
12. (Original) The electrode of claim 11, wherein the at least one aperture is elongate.
13. (Previously presented) The electrode of claim 1, wherein each electrical contact extends over portions of both major surfaces of the common contact region.
14. (Previously presented) A strip of electrodes, comprising two offset rows of at least partially overlapping electrode pairs, each electrode pair including:
a common contact region; and
a pair of spaced apart elongate elements extending from the common contact region and oriented substantially parallel to one another,
common contact regions of adjacent electrode pairs in the same row being positioned adjacent to one another and forming an edge of the strip,

elongate elements of electrode pairs in the same row being aligned with one another and oriented substantially parallel to each other, adjacent elongate elements of each row being spaced apart by an elongate element of an electrode pair of the other row.

15. (Original) The strip of claim 14, wherein all of the elongate elements of the electrode pairs have substantially the same widths and are spaced apart from one another by a distance which is substantially equal to a width of each elongate element.

16. (Original) The strip of claim 14, comprising:
a substantially confluent dielectric layer;
a patterned conductive layer on the substantially confluent dielectric layer; and
a conductive coating layer over the patterned conductive layer only at locations of the strip that include the elongate elements.

17. (Previously presented) The strip of claim 16, wherein the patterned conductive layer forms a pair of electrical contacts at the common contact region of each electrode pair and an electrode that communicates with a corresponding electrical contact and forms a part of each elongate element.

18. (Previously presented) The strip of claim 16, wherein the substantially confluent dielectric layer includes at least one row of apertures formed through the common contact regions of each row of electrode pairs.

19. (Previously presented) The strip of claim 18, wherein the substantially confluent dielectric layer includes two rows of apertures formed through the common contact regions of each row of electrode pairs.

20. (Previously presented) The strip of claim 19, wherein the common contact region of each electrode pair is configured to be folded in half such that two apertures formed therethrough are aligned with one another and a pair of electrical contacts thereon are exposed to both major surfaces of the electrode pair.

21-51 (Canceled)